

opinion/editorial

Three cheers to our NCAA champion gymnasts

Congratulations should be extended to the Nebraska men's gymnastics team for capturing its third consecutive NCAA crown at the national meet this weekend in Lincoln.

The Huskers may have appeared to be ungracious hosts as most of the glory during the three-day gymnastic spectacle was grabbed by the hometown crew. Not only did the Nebraska team, coached by former Husker gymnast Francis Allen, run away with the team title, but junior Jim Hartung repeated as the individual all-around winner with a superb display of athletic prowess.

A record crowd that was very responsive and appreciative of the high caliber of competition was on hand at the Bob Devaney Sports Center. Many outstanding and thrilling performances by athletes from different schools were rewarded with standing ovations and the electricity generated by the fans added to the excitement on the

floor. And there were plenty of things to excite the spectators.

Among the most notable and memorable performances at the meet were:

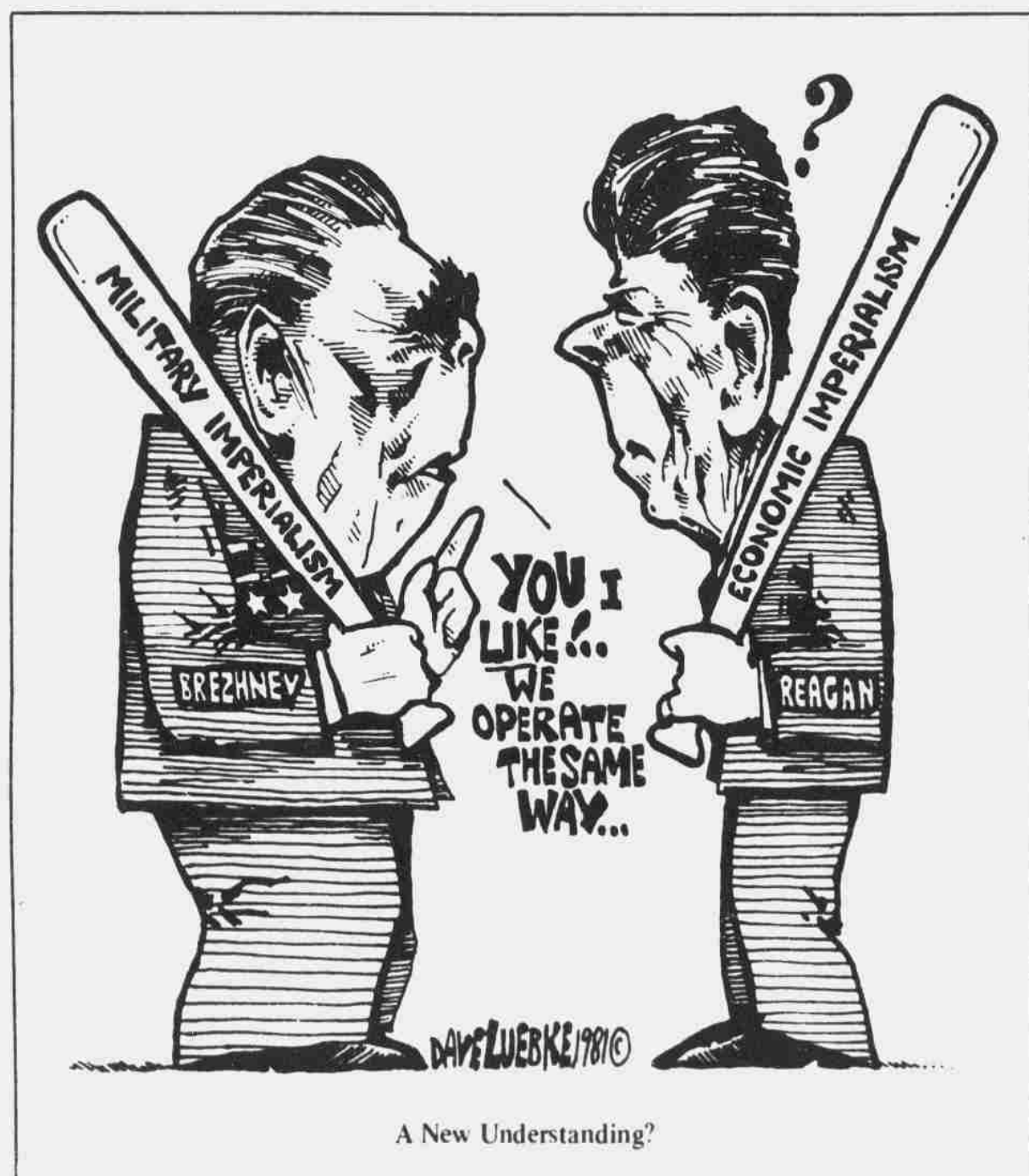
—A perfect score of 10 recorded in the vault by Iowa State's Ron Galimore. It was the first time an athlete scored a 10 in NCAA national tournament action.

—Back to back 9.9s in the floor exercise by Nebraska's Steve Elliott. Elliott rebounded from a low score in the compulsories Thursday and gave it his best in optionals and team competition. Although he failed to qualify for the individual finals, the 1980 floor exercise champion summarized his feelings about being unable to defend his title in an admirable way. He said he was disappointed but added that he thought the 9.9 performances spoke for themselves. And they did, much to the delight of the crowd.

The durability and stamina displayed by all-around champion Hartung. Hartung performed 24 routines during the three-day meet and he seemed to get better with time instead of suffering from fatigue, which obviously happened to several top competitors who had grown weary by Saturday night's individual event finals.

—The head-to-head battle for the all-around title between Hartung and Bart Conner, his rival from Oklahoma. The title came down to the final event when Hartung responded with a 9.75 on the still rings to win by .05 of a point.

Members of the Nebraska men's gymnastics team often have displayed a dedication to excellence and athletic expertise. Their most recent outstanding performance during the national meet is something the university and the state can be proud of.



A New Understanding?

Being first isn't always what it's cracked up to be

We interrupt this program to bring you a special report from CBS News. Your correspondent, Dan Rather.

"At 10:15 a.m., Eastern Standard Time, President Haig was shot at the White House. For details on the shooting, we now switch live to White House correspondent Jed Duvall in Washington. Jed, are you there?"

"Yes, Dan. This is horrible. President Haig has been shot. He is still alive and is presently on route to Bethesda Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md."

"Jed, was anyone else shot?"

"I'm not sure, Dan, but someone said they saw four members of the Cuban Delegation being wheeled out on stretchers."

"Have they identified the suspected assassin?"

sad occasion . . . wait a minute, oh no, we've had a confirmed report that our correspondent Ed Bradley has been shot in Havana and has not survived. I just can't believe it. Ed, of course, was a veteran correspondent and had worked for CBS News for who knows how long. Let's have a few moments of silence for Ed."

"Dan, I've spoken to those Cuban officials again and they still have no comment for us concerning . . ."

"Ed, is that you?"

"Yes, Dan. As I was saying . . ."

"You're supposed to be dead, Ed."

"What was that, Dan?"

"Ed, uh, we had a confirmed report that you had just been shot and that you had not survived."

"Uh, Dan, I'm not dead. This is the second time you've done this, isn't it? Frankly, I don't appreciate . . ."

"Thanks Ed. We now switch live to Bethesda Naval Hospital."

"Dan, I'm here at Bethesda Naval Hospital. President Haig isn't here yet, and hospital officials don't seem to know what I am talking about. Back to you, Dan."

"This is Jed Duvall in Washington, Dan. President Haig will be holding a press conference in a few minutes. Apparently, our sources were mistaken on the assassination attempt. Back to you, Dan."

"Well, what can I say? The President's fine, the Cuban officials are fine, Ed Bradley is fine. I wonder if in our quest to be first with the story, we sometimes go on hazy evidence and quotes from supposedly reliable sources. I wonder, too, if we could handle these stories differently, with occasional updates instead of continuous coverage that tends to be boring and repetitive. I wonder . . ."

CBA News. Then and now, the leader.

bob glissmann

"Apparently, Dan, they haven't been able to locate the assailant and nobody I've spoken to knows what he or she looks like. That's all I've got. Back to you, Dan."

"Thanks, Jed. Uh, we have a reporter flying to Bethesda at the moment and he should be there shortly. For those of you who have just joined us, I repeat, President Haig has been shot and is being flown to Bethesda Naval Hospital for emergency surgery. Reports say he was shot in the foot and the neck. No news on the four Cuban diplomats, who were also reported shot, and there is still no news on the alleged assassin. Vice President Connally has been notified and correspondent Leslie Stahl is with him in New York City."

"Dan, we've been unable to find Vice President Connally anywhere. He was supposedly on his way to JFK airport but no one here has seen him. Back to you, Dan."

"Well, I'm sure he's very disturbed, as I am, about this horrible news. Uh, Jed Duvall in Washington, do we have any film on the attempt?"

"No, not at this time, Dan."

"OK, Uh, of course this brings back memories of the assassination attempt on former President Reagan's life four years ago. Reporters were on the scene and we had film of the shooting, from multiple angles if I remember correctly. We also had identified the three men who were shot besides Mr. Reagan, and we had film of the suspect. Today, unfortunately, we have none of that. But we'll keep you up to date on the president's condition. We now have a reaction from the Cuban leaders and our CBS correspondent, Ed Bradley, in Havana. Ed, are you there?"

"Yes, Dan. I've just spoken to a number of top Cuban officials."

"And what did they say, Ed?"

"Dan, they were unaware of the assassination attempt. I told them about it, but they had no comment. Back to you, Dan."

"Uh, well, nobody seems to have anything for us, but, uh, this is indeed a sorry moment for us all. Terrible. This is truly a

Automotive legacy shunned

We've asked the Japanese to kindly stop selling us Americans so many automobiles. That's a good idea. Equally good ideas are being offered, too, by the new National Association for the Advancement of American Automobiles.

It was just a year ago that the NAAAA's founder, Homer T. Pettibone, who lived in a typical VW-Volvo-Honda American suburb, came home with a brand new car.

arthur hoppe

"What kind did you buy, dear?" asked his wife, Heloise, excitedly.

"Look, it's parked out front," he said proudly. "A beautiful four-door Ford Fairmont."

"Well," said Heloise, paling, "there goes the neighborhood."

Needless to say, property values tumbled, the Pettibones were accused of block-busting and ostracized by one and by all. It was then that Pettibone founded the NAAAA.

"For all too long," he says, "domestic cars have been unfairly stereotyped as big, expensive gas guzzlers. They have become

second-class vehicles on America's highways, shunned and scorned from Bel Air to Beacon Hill. We must put an end once and for all to this cruel discrimination and learn to judge every car on its merits, not on its national persuasion."

The NAAAA has already achieved some progress in this direction. Bills are pending in several states to create affirmative parking programs under which employees would be required to provide a quota of spaces in their employee lots for domestic cars.

Congress even now is considering equal rights legislation banning segregated garages.

"Why should foreign cars enjoy the services of \$45-an-hour mechanics," asks Pettibone, "while domestics must make do with cheaper and presumably less skillful care?"

In the long range, the NAAAA considers busing a viable alternative.

"We are confident that children would overcome their bias toward domestics," says Pettibone, "if they were car-pooled to school daily in American cars."

"Couple this with American automotive studies programs in our nation's colleges," he says, "and our young people would grow up with pride in their automotive heritage. Domestic, we say, is beautiful!"

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